

Preface

The Millenium is a great festival in the World. Several organizations and manifestations are in progress everywhere. For the history of Hungary it is very important that the first King, ST. STEPHAN was crowned in 1000, so this was the birth of the State of Hungary. For the science of Hungary it is also important, that 2000 will be the 175th Anniversary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Our Laboratory in its modest possibilities is preparing the celebration of this great occasion. The 2000th number of Plant Cell Biology and Development appeared in a greater extent as usually. Several authors from different countries contributed to this volume. On the 21th August of 2000 we want to organize a greater celebration than earlier because this will be the 10th Anniversary of the Laboratory. The first number of Plant Cell Biology and Development of the coming Millenium will inform from this important occasion.

The 21th August this year the following three foreign colleagues were awarded with the Commemorative Medal of the Laboratory:

Prof. Dr. S. NILSSON (Palynologiska laboratoriet, Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden) for his excellent results on the Palynology of recent sporomorphs, in particular of the *angiosperm* pollen grains. His contribution to modern Aeropalynology is worldwide recognized. As the chief-editor of the review Grana he continued the famous, and high standard tradition of Prof. Dr. G. ERDTMAN for the international Palynology.

Dr. J.R. ROWLEY (Stockholms Universitet, botaniska institutionen, Stockholm, Sweden), achieved basic and very important results on the transmission electron microscopy of the sporomorphs, in particular on recent pollen grains. He published several important papers on the sub-units of the sporoderm, among others the helical structures are the most important. He is always using the new methods and techniques, his concepts of researches are multidisciplinary and modern.

Dr. S.K.M. TRIPATHI (Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India), for his very important contribution in the realization of the joint research programs of the B.S.I.P. and the C.B.E.M.L.. The subject of our first researches was the biopolymer organization and symmetry of the partially degraded wall of *Botryococcus braunii* KÜTZ, isolated from Hungarian oil shale. Experimental LM and TEM investigations on palm pollen grains from India followed this.

Dr. MADHAV KUMAR (Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India) was awarded with the Diploma of the Laboratory for his important contribution in the realization of the joint research programs of the Indian National Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In this place I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the youth working in my Laboratory, in the first place to the students of the Radnóti Miklós Secondary School, and its teachers also, Drs. Mrs. E. KISS, and Mrs. E. MUSTÁRDY. The activity, the energy and the talent of the young generation is a guarantee for the science in the

future. The authors are very thankful to Ass. Prof. Dr. R. ZÁNTHÓ (Department of the English Language of the J. Gy. High School, Szeged) for linguistic corrections to the English texts. Thanks are due for her excellent work to Miss M. MADARÁSZ assistant of the Laboratory who in her leisure time is working in the realization of several research programs. She is always helpful to everybody in the Laboratory. Many thanks to the Juhász Printing Office, personally to Mr. P. JUHÁSZ, Head and to Mr. Z. KORPA co-worker of the undertaking for the excellent cooperation.

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to the Faculty of Science of the J.A. University,

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to Prof. Dr. K. VARGA, Dean of the Faculty of Science of the J.A. University.

On the other hand it is regrettable that the Foundation for Szeged, and the Local Government of Szeged is lacking among the contributors.

Szeged, 30. December, 1999.

M. KEDVES
Head of the Laboratory